

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 233182 TOSEC 270422

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM BROWN (S/PRS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING MONDAY, SEPT. 20

NO. 27

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DEPUTY SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES TO
QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AT DAILY BRIEFING MONDAY, SEPT. 20:

(1) U.S.-ISRAELI DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING SUEZ GULF DRILLING
-- DEPY SPOKESMAN OBSERVED THAT UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON HELD TALKS ON SEPTEMBER 16 AND
17 WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ AND DEPDIRGEN EVRON OF
ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY ON QUESTIONS RELATED TO ACTIVITIES
OF AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES IN SUEZ GULF. EXCHANGE OF INFOR-
MATION WAS USEFUL IN CLARIFYING SITUATION, AND EXCHANGES
ON SUBJECT WILL CONTINUE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.
ASKED IF SECRETARY WILL DISCUSS MATTER WITH ALLON IN NEW
YORK, DEPY SPOKESMAN REPLIED YES.

(2) JACK ANDERSON COLUMN ON ALLEGED PLO FUND-RAISING
ACTIVITIES IN U.S. -- DEPY SPOKESMAN SAID WE ARE TRYING TO
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DETERMINE WHETHER FACTS AS REPORTED BY ANDERSON ARE CORRECT.

IF IT SHOULD TURN OUT MEMBERS OF PLO MISSION TO U.N. ARE INVOLVED IN FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY, SUCH ACTIVITY WOULD BE DEEMED CLEARLY OUTSIDE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH THEY WERE ADMITTED. ASKED WHAT KIND OF ACTION COULD BE CONTEMPLATED IF RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION INDICATED SUCH ACTIVITIES, DEPY SPOKESMAN REPLIED IT WOULD BE PRE-MATURE TO OFFER PROJECTION BUT IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT ONE POSSIBLE COURSE WOULD BE EXPULSION OF INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED. ASKED ABOUT PREVIOUS INSTANCES OF PLO OBSERVER MISSION MEMBERS VIOLATING TERMS OF EXCEPTION TO USG TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, DEPY SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT OUR VERY SERIOUS CONCERN WAS COMMUNICATED TO OBSERVER MISSION AND REQUIREMENT STRESSED WITH REGARD TO ADHERANCE TO THOSE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS BY NOT ENGAGING IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. DEPY SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED ABOUT USG VIEWS CONCERNING FUND-RAISING IN GENERAL FOR PLO WITHIN U.S.; "WOULD USG SUPPORT IT MORALLY?" DEPY SPOKESMAN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT QUESTION.

(3) RHODESIAN ATHLETES -- IN ANSWER TO QUERY, DEPY SPOKESMAN SAID WE WERE STILL LOOKING INTO STATUS OF RHODESIAN TENNIS PLAYERS AND HAD NOTHING ON MATTER AT THIS TIME.

ROBINSON

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